

Weekly Disease Surveillance Report

2023 Reporting Week 01: January 1 — January 7



This weekly report is produced by the DOH-Okaloosa Epidemiology Section to provide situational awareness to community partners. Data is subject to change as additional information is gathered.

COVID-19 Trends

COVID-19 levels have continued to increase for Okaloosa. **Recommended actions based on current COVID-19 Community Level (Medium):** Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines. [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms. Wear a mask if you have symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19. Wear a mask on [public transportation](#). You may choose to wear a mask at any time as an additional precaution to protect yourself and others. If you are at [high risk for severe illness](#), consider wearing a mask indoors in public and taking [additional precautions](#).

NEW: On December 20, 2022, the CDC released a health alert network (HAN) for [Important Updates on COVID-19 Therapeutics for Treatment and Prevention](#) which provides information on COVID-19 Omicron sublineages with reduced susceptibility to specific monoclonal antibody treatments.

ILI Trends

Influenza-like illness (ILI) in Okaloosa decreased for 2023 Week 01 (current level: 5.06%; normal average: 3.0%), yet continues to remain elevated. Please stay vigilant, review the weekly [Florida FLU REVIEW](#) for statewide information, and continue to promote vaccination.

NEW: On December 14, 2022, the CDC released a HAN for [Interim Guidance for Clinicians to Prioritize Antiviral Treatment of Influenza in the Setting of Reduced Oseltamivir](#) (e.g., Tamiflu). To date, the FDA and the Florida Department of Health have not received notification of shortages. General information on availability of antiviral medications can be found at [Influenza 2022-2034 \(fda.gov\)](#).

Contact Us:

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COVID-19 Snapshot

Week 01 Community Level

COVID-19 Community Level	New Hospital Admissions per 100K Population (Past 7 Days)	% Staffed Beds with COVID-19 Patients (Past 7 Days)
MEDIUM	18.4	3.8%

PREVIOUS WEEK COMMUNITY LEVEL: MEDIUM

New COVID-19 Cases Per 100,000 people in the past 7 days	Indicators	Low	Medium	High
Fewer than 200	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	<10.0	10.0-19.9	≥20.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	<10.0%	10.0-14.9%	≥15.0%
200 or more	New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population (7-day total)	NA	<10.0	≥10.0
	Percent of staffed inpatient beds occupied by COVID-19 patients (7-day average)	NA	<10.0%	≥10.0%

Week 01 Community Transmission Level

COVID-19 Community Risk Level	New Cases per 100K Population per Week	% Positivity per Week
HIGH	109.1	20.3%

PREVIOUS WEEK RISK LEVEL: HIGH

Low	<10	<5.0%
Moderate	10-49	5.0 - 7.9%
Substantial	50-99	8.0 - 9.9%
High	>100	>10.0%

Community Level and Community Risk/Transmission Level are the color of the higher risk level for each of the two indicators. Data Source : CDC [Community Indicators at the County Level](#)



COVID-19 in Okaloosa County

Week 01: January 1—January 7

COVID-19 IN OKALOOSA, CASES vs. VACCINATION

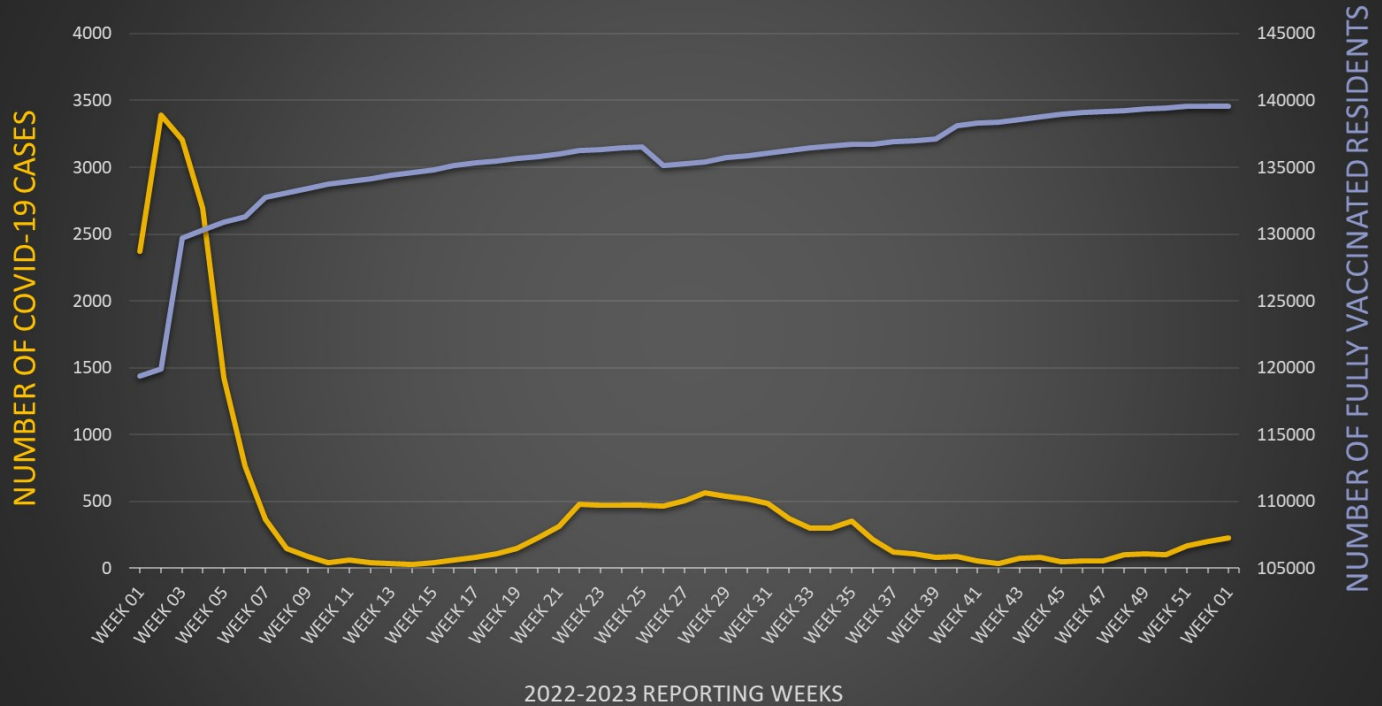


Figure 1: Cumulative number of fully vaccinated Okaloosa residents as compared to COVID-19 cases per week. Data reported through previous Sunday.
Data Source: Merlin & CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)

Week 01 Review		Difference from Wk52
Resident Case Count	230	+27
Resident Case Count per 100K Population	109.1	+12.8
Average Resident Cases per Day	32.9	+3.9
Percent Positivity	20.3%	+2.8

Data Source: Merlin Database

The Florida Department of Health (FDOH) provides the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) with county COVID-19 data, including deaths.

Please visit the [COVID-19 Community Profile Report](#) webpage to obtain death data by downloading the most recent excel file and locating Okaloosa on the 'Counties' tab.

For questions related to COVID-19 death data, please contact the FDOH Office of Communications at 850-245-4111 or NewsMedia@flhealth.gov.

COVID-19 VACCINATIONS		
Fully-Vaccinated Groups	OKALOOSA	US
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	70.8%	73.0%
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	76.6%	77.2%
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	79.3%	78.8%
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95.0%	94.1%

Data reported through previous Sunday. Data Source: CDC [COVID Data Tracker](#)



Influenza-Like Illness

Week 01: January 1 - January 7

Influenza-like Illness (ILI) is defined as fever greater than or equal to 100°F AND cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.

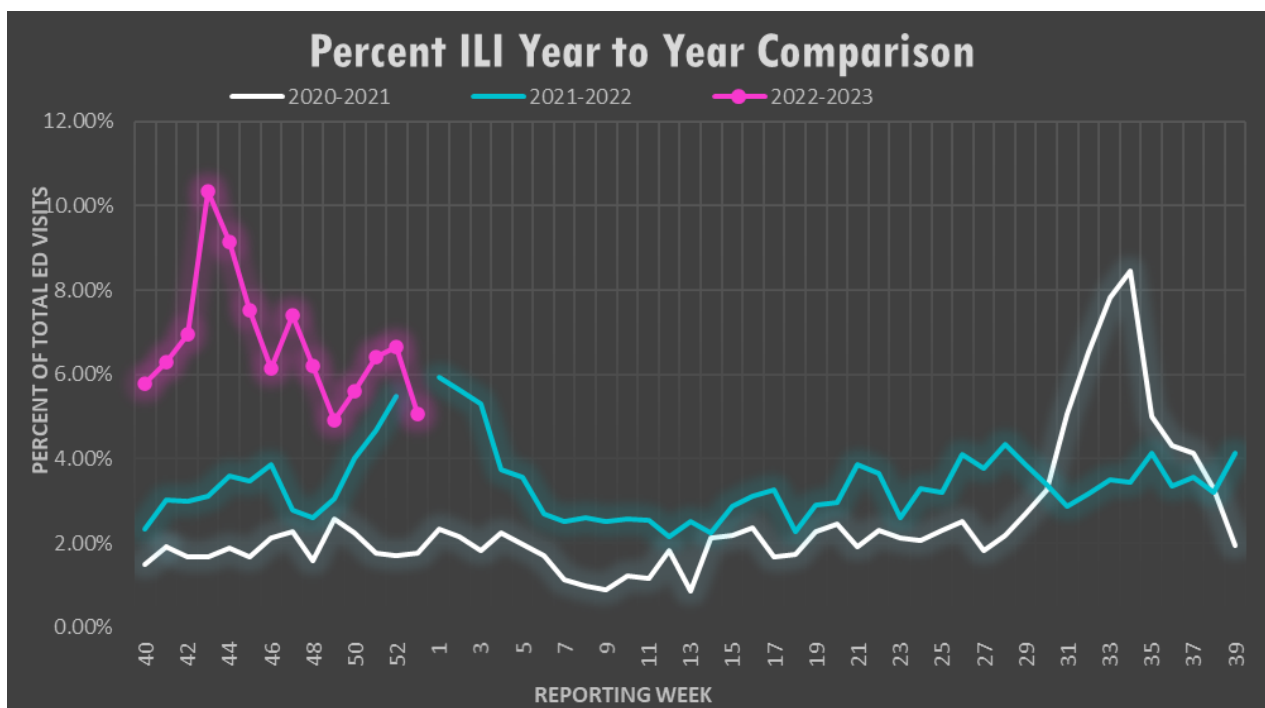


Figure 2:

Annual comparison of the percent of all hospital ED visits due to ILI for Okaloosa County for the 2020-21, 2021-22 and 2022-23 influenza seasons by week.

Data source: ESSENCE

ANALYSIS: During Week 01, flu reporting partners and ESSENCE (a syndromic surveillance system) reported a decrease in ILI activity for Okaloosa County. The percentage of ILI ED visits in Okaloosa County decreased from 6.66% during Week 52 to 5.06% during Week 01. Flu partners reported 20 positive rapid flu tests this week (19 Influenza A and 1 Influenza B). Over the past three weeks, 14 influenza specimens submitted to the state lab were positive (8 Influenza A H3, 5 Influenza A H1N1, and 1 Influenza A H1). There were no ILI admissions or deaths reported by flu partners this week. One outbreak has been reported in the past 3 weeks. The percentage of total ILI ED visits for Week 01 is lower than that of Week 01 last year.

Note: Other respiratory syndromes can be represented by increased ILI case numbers. Data Source: ESSENCE

% ILI by Age Group Week 01, 2023

Age Range	ILI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total ILI Visits
0-4	25	179	13.97%
5-19	16	271	5.90%
20-34	35	573	6.11%
35-54	28	620	4.52%
55-74	23	650	3.54%
75+	7	355	1.97%

Data Source: ESSENCE

% of Total ILI Visits by Facility Week 1, 2023

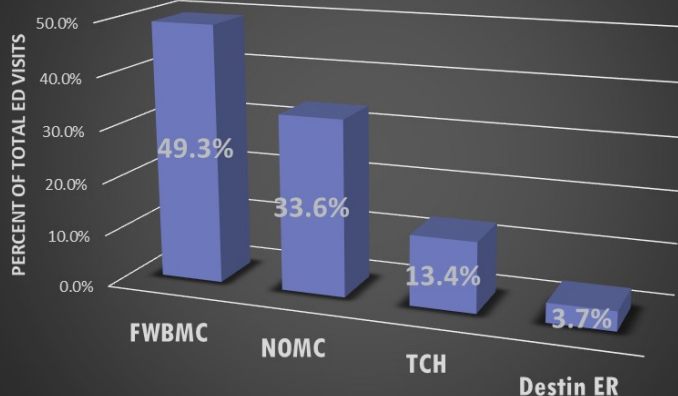


Figure 3: Hospital ED visits meeting ILI criteria stratified by facility. Percentages calculated based on total number of ILI ED visits. (n=134). Data source: ESSENCE



Syndromic Surveillance

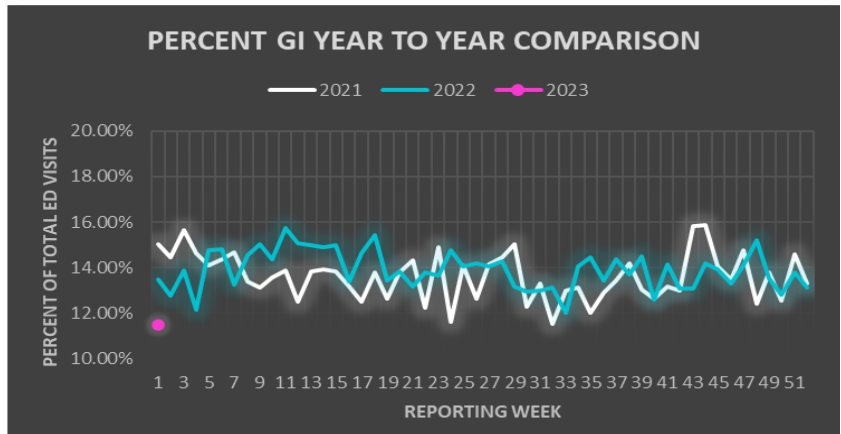
Week 01: January 1— January 7

Gastro-intestinal Illness (GI)

Figure 4:

Annual comparison for the percent of GI for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

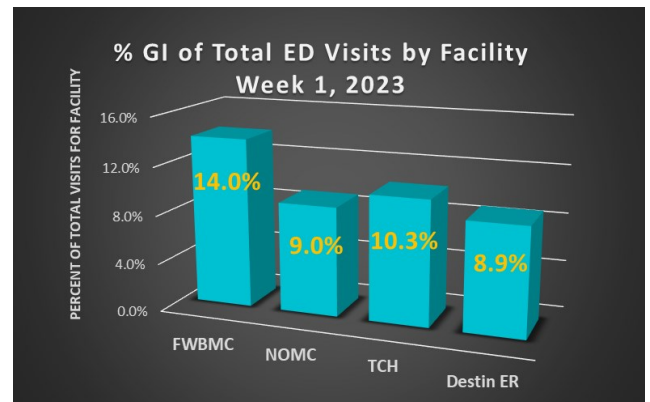


% GI by Age Group Week 01, 2023			
Age Range	GI Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total GI Visits
0-4	20	179	11.17%
5-19	38	271	14.02%
20-34	91	573	15.88%
35-54	73	620	11.77%
55-74	56	650	8.62%
75+	26	355	7.32%

Figure 5:

Hospital emergency room visits due to GI illness stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE

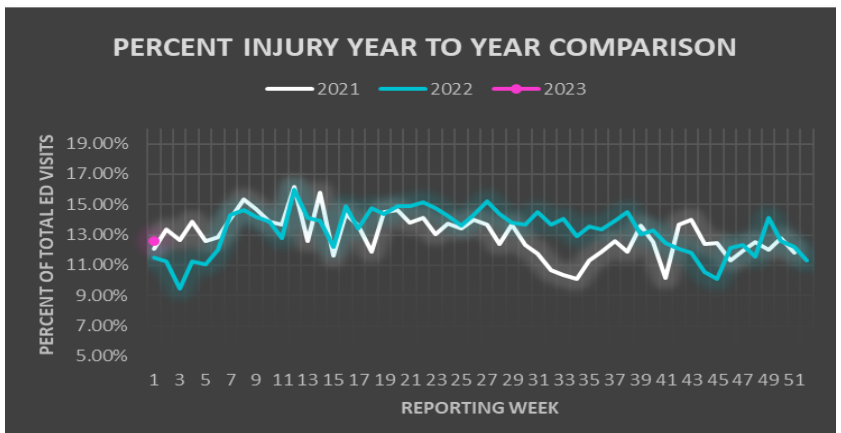


Injury

Figure 6:

Annual comparison for the percent of Injury for all Okaloosa County hospital ED visits week to week for 2021, 2022, and 2023.

Data Source: ESSENCE

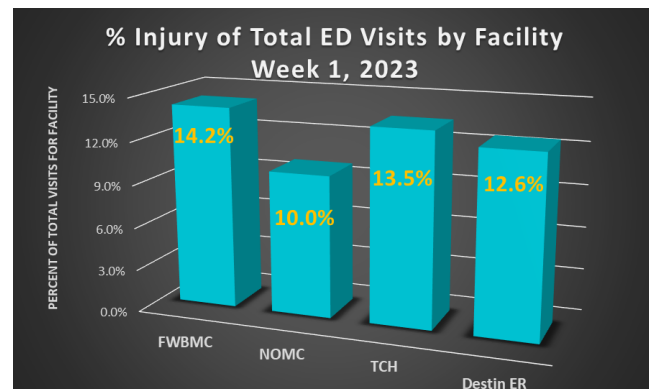


% Injury by Age Group Week 01, 2023			
Age Range	Injury Visits	Total ED Visits	% Total Injury Visits
0-4	18	179	10.06%
5-19	49	271	18.08%
20-34	71	573	12.39%
35-54	67	620	10.81%
55-74	72	650	11.08%
75+	57	355	16.06%

Figure 7:

Hospital emergency room visits due to Injury stratified by facility.

Data source: ESSENCE





Syndromic Surveillance

Week 01: January 1 - January 7

Total ED Visits by Syndrome

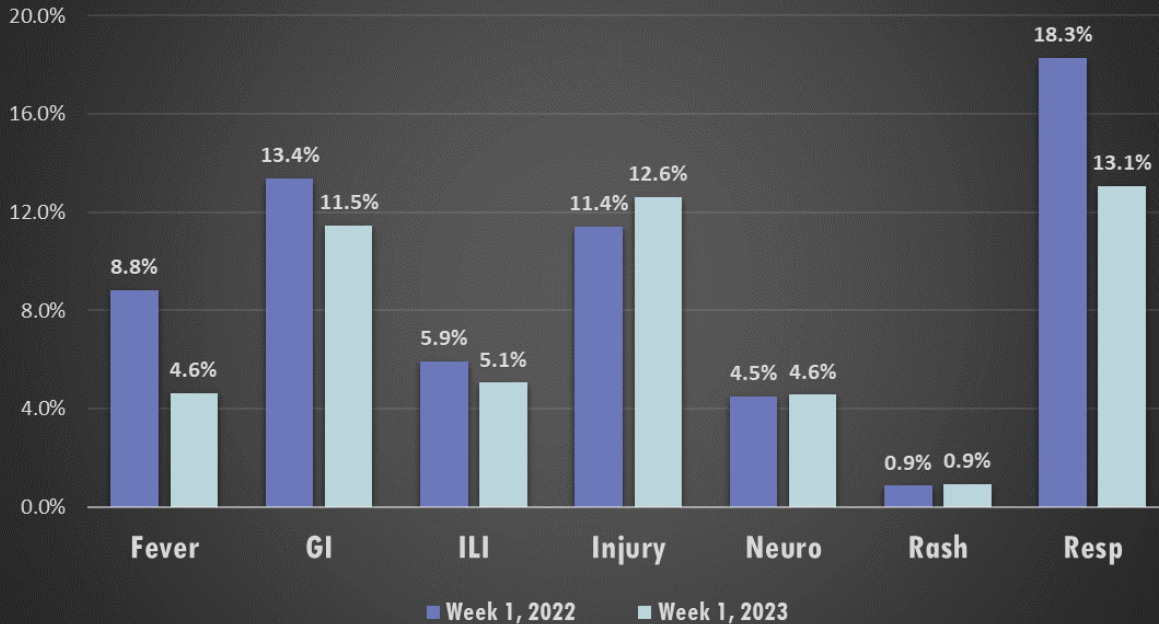
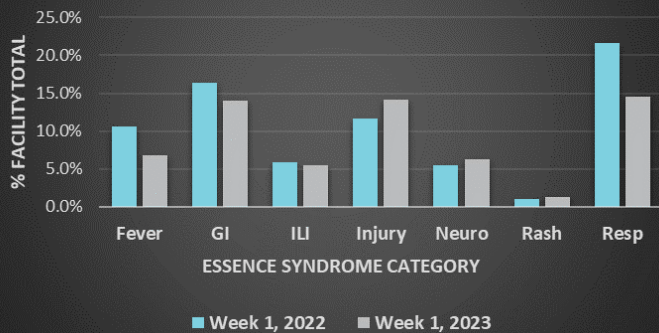


Figure 8: Hospital Emergency Department (ED) visits from 2023 Week 01 by select syndrome category. Percentages calculated based on total number of ED visits (n=2650). Some syndrome categories are not represented; therefore, represented percentages will not total 100%. Data source: ESSENCE

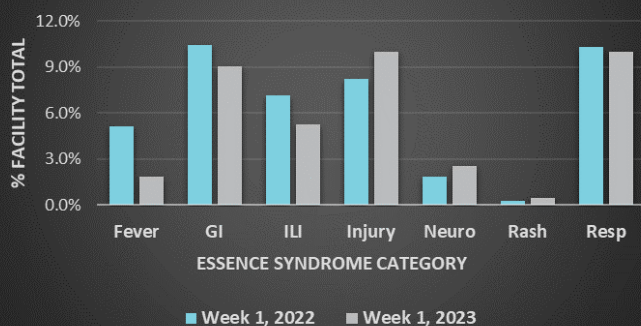
Fort Walton Beach Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 01- Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	32
5-19	RESP	26
20-34	GI	53
35-54	RESP	43
55-74	RESP	33
75+	INJURY	26

North Okaloosa Medical Center ED Presentations



Week 01- North Okaloosa Medical Center

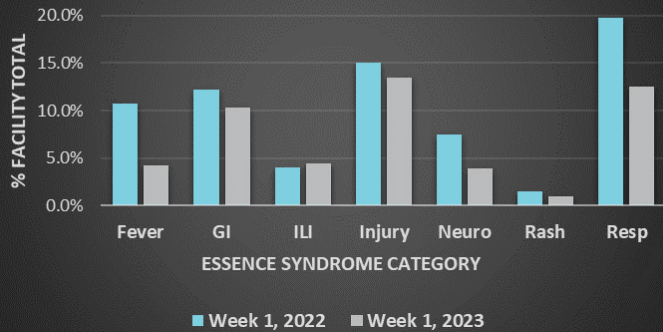
Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	8
5-19	INJURY	16
20-34	GI	20
35-54	GI	22
55-74	RESP	25
75+	INJURY	16



Syndromic Surveillance

Week 01: January 1 - January 7

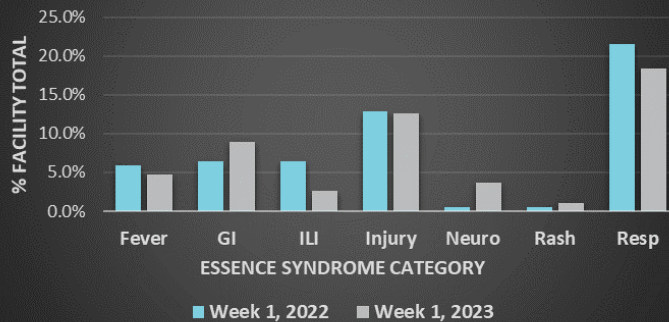
Twin Cities Hospital ED Presentations



Week 01- Twin Cities Hospital

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	RESP	5
5-19	GI	9
20-34	GI	13
35-54	RESP	13
55-74	INJURY	14
75+	INJURY	13

DestinER ED Presentations



Week 01- Destin ER

Age Range	Top Syndrome	Total ED Visits for Syndrome
0-4	FEVER	4
5-19	INJURY	5
20-34	RESP	11
35-54	INJURY	7
55-74	RESP	10
75+	RESP	9

Week 01—Okaloosa County

Age Group	Top Syndrome
0-4	RESP
5-19	INJURY
20-34	GI
35-54	GI
55-74	RESP
75+	INJURY



Data Source: ESSENCE